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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Pashkimi Minis Punes Shqiprise (Union of Albanian Working Youth); History/Organization/Procedure to Obtain Membership/Membership Card/Unions/Privileges

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "The following observations on the Pashkimi Minis Punes Shqiprise (Union of Albanian Working Youth) date through mid-Aug 52.

History

2. "The Partia Komuniste Shqipris (Albanian Communist Party) was established in Tirana 8 Nov 41. The Rinia Komuniste (Communist Youth) was established in Tirana some time during 1942. Both organizations operated illegally until after World War II. Until the First Congress of the Albanian Communist Party established 28 Nov 48 the Komiteti Qendror Partis Punes Shqiprise (Central Committee of the Albanian Labor Party), members of the Party and Party youth organizations were forbidden to disclose their membership to anyone, not even their wives.

3. "At the end of World War II, while the Rinia Komuniste continued its illegal activities, another organization appeared called the Rinia Shqiprise. This was actually a copy of

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the Communist Youth and was Communist sponsored and directed. Up to 1949, I think, reactionaries were permitted to join the Pina Shqiprise. On the occasion of the Third Congress of Communist Albanian Youth, the two organizations were unified into the present Pashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise. Unification was marked by a purge of former members of the Pina Shqiprise; about 70% were evicted. Since that time the CP youth organization has been a legal organization.

Organization

4. The following diagram illustrates the network of the Pashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise throughout the country:

Komiteti Qendror Partis Punes Shqiprise
Plv. Shqipria e Re, Tirana

Pashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise (P.R.P.S.)
(Union of Albanian Working Youth)
Headquarters opposite the Agjensia
Pasagjeravet, Tirana

Pashkimi Rinis Punes Prethit- ... (P.R.P.)
(Union of Albanian Working Youth, Region of) Organization for each region of the country, including Tirana. Headquarters for the Tirana regional organization: Br. Fusha e Druvet, Tirana

Organizata Baze e Rinis Lokalitetit-....
Units of the youth organization in each Albanian locality.

Organizata Baze e Rinis Matundit-....
Units of the youth organization in each Albanian village.

Also: an Organizata e Rinis exists in every State institution/plant/ministry etc. and in the Armed Forces. This is similar to the network of Basic Organizations for the Albanian Labor Party

Pashkimi Rinis Punes Qytetit-Tirane
(Union of Albanian Working Youth - City of Tirana) Plv. Shqipria, Tirana

Organizata Baze e Rinis-Rajone 1
(Basic Youth Organization - City Sector 1) Br. Germal Stafa, Tirana

- a. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes Re
- b. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes Laprake
- c. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes Asim Zeneli
- d. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes 17 Mandor

Organizata Baze e Rinis-Rajone 2
(Basic Youth Organization - City Sector 2) Br. Parrikadavet, Tirana

- a. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes 1 Maj
- b. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes 8 Mandor
- c. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes Pulrit

Organizata Baze e Rinis-Rajone 3
Pl. Radio Tirane, Tirana

- a. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes Logo Vushi
- b. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes Misto Vano
- c. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes Vasil Shanto
- d. Org. Baze Rin. Ragjes Ylli Mac

(Note: Only the city of Tirana is divided into sectors. Other regional cities just have sub-sectors -- Ragjes)

5. The Albanian Labor Party (the CP) exercises supervision over the Pashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise through its Seksioni Rinis (Youth Section). Although instructions for the various units of the Union of Albanian Working Youth filter down from the headquarters through the regional, town and village levels, the Labor Party exercises supervision at all levels. The Youth Section of the Komiteti Partis Punes Qytetit-Tirane (Labor Party Committee for the City of Tirana) supervises the units of the Union of Albanian Working Youth in the city of Tirana. The Youth Section of the Komiteti Partis Punes Prethit (Labor Party Committee for the Region) in each region supervises the units within that region. Only the regional committees of the Labor Party have Youth Sections, not the basic organizations in the localities and villages. For direct control on the locality or village level orders are transmitted by the nearest Party basic organization; not all villages have Party basic organizations.

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6. "The basic organizations of the Union of Working Youth in city sub-sectors (lagjes), the rajones of Tirana, localities, villages, the Armed Forces and State institutions etc each have one Presidenti Rinis. The head units for the regions and for the city of Tirana have committees composed of five or six members. While I would say that only two per cent of the members of the Albanian Union of Working Youth are members of the Party, 90% of the Presidenti Rinis and surely all of the members of the various head committees are members of the Party.

7. "The various Presidenti Rinis are elected for two-year terms, in the same way as officials of the Party base organizations. Four candidates are proposed by the secretary of the corresponding Party base organization. The Presidenti Rinis of the three rajones of the city of Tirana are directly appointed by the Executive Committee of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Qytetit-Tirane. The members of the regional committees of the Union of Working Youth are appointed by members of the Komiteti Qendror i Bashkimi Rinis Shqipris (Central Committee of the Union of Albanian Working Youth) per orders issued by the Seksionit Rinis (Youth Section) of the Komiteti Qendror Partis Punes Shqipris (Central Committee of the Albanian Labor Party).

Purpose

8. "The main purpose of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise is to prepare its members to become future Kandidat Partie (Party candidates). It is the plant wherein the CP produces future Party members. This preparation goes hand in hand with the tasks of the Fronti-Demokratik. However, the B.R.P.SH. undertakes the direct preparation of Party members, creating the new kuadrit; The Fronti-Demokratik has a stronger propaganda assignment. Both are props of the Albanian Labor Party. For example, to be appointed an officer in the Albanian Armed Forces a man must be (and this is the minimum requirement) a member of the B.R.P.SH; membership in the Fronti-Demokratik is not sufficient title for a commission. The only two organizations existing throughout the Armed Forces are the B.R.P.SH. and the Organizata Baze of the Labor Party.

Procedure to Obtain Membership

9. "No young person is compelled to join the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise. This holds true within State institutions (plants, cooperatives, etc). The task of preparing future members of the B.R.P.SH. rests with the Organizata Agjitorvet (Agitators' Organization), which has units throughout all State institutions etc., and the regions, localities and villages. A Party member will alert a group of agitators that individual X seems ripe for joining the B.R.P.SH. An agitator advises X that he ought to file an application to join the Working Youth. The agitators are outstanding members of the B.R.P.SH. or Party candidates.

10. "All males and females between the ages of 15 and 27 and of a sane proletarian social origin are eligible to join the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise.

11. "The applicant must find two members of the B.R.P.SH. who will sign a Garanci B.R.P.SH. (Guarantee) for him. One of the members must have been a member of the Working Youth for two years. The other must have been a member for five, thus probably in the former Rinia Noministe. The two guarantors cannot be close relatives of the applicant (father, mother, sister or brother). The Garanci is prepared in the same way as a Garanci for an applicant to the Labor Party [REDACTED] 7. The applicant must also prepare a written application, addressed to the appropriate Organizata Baze i Rinis. This is similar to the application for Labor Party membership.

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12. "If the applicant is employed, he files his application (the two Garanci attached) with the Organizata Baze i Rinis of the State institution/plant etc for which he works or of the military unit with which he serves; he does not file it with the Organizata Baze i Rinis in his place of residence. If he lives in a locality or village and is not employed within the Government's 'field of labor', he files the application with the Organizata Baze i Rinis of his place of residence. If he lives in a regional town or in Tirana, and does not work, he files it with the Organizata Baze e Rinise of the Lagja in which he resides. The application goes to the appropriate Presidenti Rinis. Actual offices for B.R.P.SH. activities are located only in Tirana and the regional capitals -- for the regional committees and the committee for the city of Tirana.

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13. "In the monthly meeting of the Basic Organization (Mledhja e Organizates Baze Rinis) the Presidenti Rinis discusses the applicant with the other members of the group, in the same way as the Party basic organizations discuss Party applicants. A vote is taken. If the vote is affirmative, a Proces-Verbal (resolutions of the meeting, including part on the applicant) and the Opinion-Positiv (positive opinion) are forwarded with the entire application to the Sek. Organizacionit of the appropriate Bashkimi Rinis Punes Rrethit (regional headquarters) or the Union of Working Youth). A resident of Tirana hands his application to the Presidenti Rinis of his Lagje. There it is discussed. The Proces Verbal goes to the president of the rajone, who in turn, without discussing it with his members, forwards it to the Sek. Organizacionit of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Qytetit-Tirane. In the same way, the applications of residents of regional capitals get forwarded by the presidents of the Lagje directly to the Sek. Organizacionit of the regional committee.

14. "The Bashkimi Rinis Punes Qytetit-Tirane and the various regional committees for the Union of Albanian Youth have bi-monthly meetings. The Komiteti investigates carefully an applicant's past and present activities. Approval is conveyed through the usual channels, from the regional committee or Tirana city committee down to the president of the youth organization unit concerned. The president of the Organizata Baze e Rinis concerned (in state institutions etc. and approval has come down through channels from the regional committee of the region in which the institution is located) informs the applicant of the decision. This is not true of the procedure in the Albanian Armed Forces. The organization of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise in the Armed Forces will be discussed in a separate report.

15. "The procedures above holds true only for young men and women of 'sane' social origin, who have never in the past had political affiliations. The decision on an applicant who comes from the Shtrese e Pasun (rich or reactionary class) or who in the past has had a political affiliation can be approved, regardless of his place of residence, only by the head organization of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise. The regional committee can only make suggestions. Normally the applications from persons of such backgrounds are not approved. If approval is given, the member is carefully watched; the slightest error will lead to eviction.

Membership Card

16. "When an applicant is approved he becomes immediately a member of the Union of Working Youth, not a candidate as in the case of the Labor Party. The Tesera e Rinis (Youth Organization Identification Card) is red, sized about 6 x 6 cms, bearing a picture of the member and a serial number.

For members in the city of Tirana -- living there or employed in a State institution, plant, etc. there -- the card bears the stamp of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Qytetit-Tirane and the signature of the Sek. Organizacionit of that body. Members subordinate to units in State institutions without the city of Tirana or to localities or villages in the Tirana region or other regions have membership cards stamped with the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Rrethit stamp appropriate and with the signature of the Sek. Organizacionit of the same body. The Tesera e Rinis is issued by the Sek. Organizacionit of the B.R.P.SH. to the various regional Youth organizations and to that for the city of Tirana. The Sek. Organizacionit of each regional Youth organization and of that for the city of Tirana also has blank cards and can issue them to new members. This is a difference from the issue of the Labor Party membership card.

17. "The Tesera e Rinis may be carried in any pocket -- usually in a wallet -- and need not be carried in a special pocket. The membership card for the Labor Party must be carried in a special pocket.

18. "When the member receives his Tesera e Rinis he pays a fee of 20 Lek. He pays an additional three lek each month as membership fee. About five days after he receives his Tesera e Rinis the new member must submit a written Biografia (curriculum vitae) to his Presidenti Rinis.

19. "The Presidenti Rinis registers the serial number of the card in his Registri i Antares Te Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqipris (Registry of Members of the Union of Young Albanian Workers). Each Presidenti Rinis keeps such a registry. Though loss of a Tesera e Rinis involves no punishment, it does involve public reprimand of the member before all the other members of his Organizata Baze e Rinis. A bad mark is registered in the member's personal file (Anketa Personale). A new card is issued -- with a new serial number. The loss is reported to the regional organization, or to the organization for the city of Tirana, which informs the Sek. Organizacionit of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise. A second loss of membership card leads to immediate eviction from the Union of Working Youth. Three bad marks in a member's Anketa Personale (for disobeying rules, non-attendance

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20. "If a member of the Union of Working Youth transfers his place of employment or place of residence for a period over one month, he must obtain a so-called Flet-Lidhje from the unit of the youth organization which he has left. This document is handed to him in a sealed envelop. I believe that it is a statement of his membership in the youth organization since such-and-such a date and of his possession of a membership card of such-and-such serial number. It also states that he has paid his membership fees to such-and-such date. This document serves the member so that he may continue to belong to the organization and pay membership fees.

Membership Duties

21. "Obligatory duties of members of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqiprise include (and many of these duties are written in the Statute of the organization):

- (a) Agreement always with the program of the B.R.P.SH. Willing accomplishment of its mission.
- (b) Regular payment of membership fees.
- (c) Vigilant agit-prop activity on behalf of the B.R.P.SH. Unmask enemies of the Labor Party.
- (d) Propaganda among Albanian farmers to convince them that the goods which they deliver to the Kooperativa Grumbullimit (Consumption Cooperatives) benefit the economy of the entire Albanian nation.
- (e) Acceptance as a sacred mission the reciprocal aid program with the 'great friend' of Albania, the USSR.
- (f) Esteem and reverence for the mother Bolshevik Party and for the Albanian Labor Party and its leader, Enver Hoxha.
- (g) Explanation to all people not within the Party's organizations that the road of the Albanian Labor Party, per the directives of the Bolshevik Party, lead to a better life.
- (h) 100% fulfillment of the Five-Year Program; set standard for fellow workers.
- (i) Care for State properties and materials. Care for all machinery coming from the USSR.
- (j) Defense of peace by all methods.
- (k) Hatred for all nations with a different political regime: fascism, Titoism, Western capitalism headed by the Anglo-Americans and their satellites. Hatred for all who try to take away the independence won for Albania by the Labor Party.
- (l) Vigilance at all times to follow the orders of the Labor Party.
- (m) At school set example of study for other students.
- (n) Interest in illiterates; improvement of their knowledge.
- (o) Explanation to all people that the USSR has brought freedom to the nations of the people's democracies, that the USSR has the most modern and powerful Armed Forces in the world, that the members of the Soviet Armed Forces are the most 'modest'.
- (p) Study and constant praise of the Soviet Five-Year Plant (Turkestan Canal, Volga-Don power plants etc.). [This was 1952]
- (q) Explanation to all that the Soviet farmer throughout the free republics of the USSR leads a peaceful life, with the best farm living standard in the world.
- (r) Explanation to all people in Albania, through agit-prop, that the USSR grants aid to Albania and that such aid, despite the sacrifice of the Soviet people (shortage of bread), is given without reservations.
- (s) Obligation to extend theoretical knowledge through study of the history of the CP, of the Albanian Labor Party, of the lives of Stalin, Lenin and Hoxha.

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- (t) Set example for the Organizata e Pioneerit (Pioneer Organization).
- (u) Attendance of the Mledhja e Intarvat te Bashkimi Rinis Punes Shqipris (meetings of the Union of Working Youth) per instructions from the direct supervisor: the Presidenti Rinis. These meetings are normally once a month.

Membership Privileges

22. "Members of the Union of Working Youth enjoy the following privileges:

- (a) If they follow conscientiously their required duties they become Party candidates. The minimum age for a Party candidate is 18, but an exceptional member of the Union of Working Youth may become one earlier.
- (b) Privilege of completion of the matura (after eight years of gymnasium study). In Oct 50 all students at the Gymnasium Qemal Stafa, Blv. Shqipria e Re, Tirana, who did not belong to the Union of Working Youth were evicted from their studies. This policy was adopted throughout the gymnasiums in Albania. Students of gymnasiums who are not members of the B.R.P.SH. may only complete the little matura (after four years of gymnasium study).
- (c) Priority to study at a university, i.e. the University of Tirana and at those in other countries of people's democracy, including the USSR.
- (d) Minimum requirement for an officer's commission in any branch of the Albanian Armed Forces.
- (e) Privilege of the Labor Party education.

23. "Members of the Union of Working Youth do not enjoy free or reduced-rate bus or rail tickets. A member, if he works, may get a Urdher Sherbimi entitling him to reserved seat priority.

24. "No member of the Sigurimi Shtetit (S.SH. - Security Police) is entitled to request a person for his Tesera e Rinis. However the member may be taken to the nearest S.SH. office (regional, city or rajone) and there authorized to present his Tesera e Rinis only to the Presidenti Organizata Baze e Rinise or the Secretary Organizata Baze Partis Punes of the S.SH. section concerned. This also holds true for members of the Labor Party -- though identification in that case made only to the Secretary of the Party's Basic Organization. All officers of the S.SH. are actually members of the Party. Therefore all S.SH. members, after showing a person has not Party card, and ask him to produce his Tesera e Rinis.

Leaders

25. "I recall the following leaders of the Union of Working Youth: /1952/

- (a) Iliaz Reka, 35, President
Drago Siliqi, 25, Kandidat of the Komiteti Qendror (Central Committee) of the B.R.P.SH.
Jorgja Premti, 27, Antare (female) of the Central Committee of the B.R.P.SH.
These three are well-known Communists.
- (b) Janaq Toka, 31, President of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Qytetit-Tirane. He had brown hair and eyes, about 165 cms tall, and came from Gjinokaster. Married. Former Partisan.
- (c) Koco Ristani, 25, Sekretari Organizativ (of the Sek. Organizacionit) of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Qytetit-Tirane. He had black hair and eyes, about 170 cms tall, and came from the village of Libohove. Single, former farmer and Partisan.
- (d) Xheladin Rada, 25, Presidenti of the Organizata Baze e Rinise Rajone 1 - Tirana. He had brown hair, black eyes, about 168 cms tall. Single, from the city of Tirana, former Partisan.
- (e) Fetush Mehmeti, 27, Presidenti of the Org. Baz. e Rin. Rajone 2 - Tirana. He had brown hair, black eyes, about 170 cms tall. He came from Prizren, Yugoslavia. Former farmer and Partisan. Married; two-year old baby. Lived on the Rr. Qemal Stafa.

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- (f) Benjamin Uruci, 25, Presidenti of the Org. Baz. Rin. Lagjes 1 Maj in Tirana. He had brown hair, black eyes, about 160 cms tall. He came from Shkoder, former Partisan, single. Also an S.SH. agent.
- (g) Athanas Khajanka, 24, Presidenti of the Org. Baz. Rin. Lagjes 8 Nandor, Tirana. He had black hair and eyes, 165 cms tall. From Tirana itself. Single.
- (h) Andon Tapia, aged 23, Presidenti of the Org. Baz. Rin. Lagjes Sulmit, Tirana. He had brown hair and eyes, about 170 cms tall. From village of Vithkuq, single, lived on Rr. Riza Cerova.
- (i) Azem Groxhaliu, aged 27, Presidenti of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Rrethit-Kukes. He had black hair and eyes, about 175 cms tall, came from Bicaj, former farmer. Former Partisan.
- (j) Hasan Koka, 26, Sekretari Organizativ of the Bashkimi Rinis Punes Rrethit-Kukes. He had black hair and eyes, 180 cms tall, from Letaj. Former farmer and Partisan.
- (k) Sami Ferizi, 24, Presidenti of the Org. Baz. e Rin. Lokalitet-Krume. He had blond hair and blue eyes, about 178 cms tall."

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